

Harrisburg City Council Meeting
Council Room, City Hall
Harrisburg, Illinois
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2018
6:00 pm

The Harrisburg City Council met on October 18, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Council Room, City Hall, Harrisburg, Illinois.

Mayor John McPeck presided over the meeting with Commissioners Natalie Miller, Beth Montfort, Richard Harper and Mike Weirauch answering roll call.

Pastor Paul Taylor from the Land Street Church of God led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2018.
2. Accept Saline County Circuit Clerk court fees in the amount of \$1,606.00.
3. Bill from Galls for Officer Leverett's vest in the amount of \$811.00 to be taken out of Council Contingency.
4. Bill from America's Parking Remarketing for striping in the amount of \$9,302.50 to be taken out of MFT.

Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Harper stated he had indicated at the last meeting that he would bring back figures for the cost of the City to do its own dispatch but he had not yet received enough information to give Council an accurate cost. However, he had met with Sheriff Ken Clore, County Board Member Rick Lane and Mayor McPeck to discuss the agreement. He stated the County had expressed the desire for the City to stay and that it would be best to have one service, rather than a duplicate. He had been asked to determine, as an individual not a Council member, what would be fair to both the City and the County.

Commissioner Harper had determined that the City would pay \$200,000.00 for a five year contract, with no increases during that time, and the contract to begin on November 1, 2018, rather than back to the date the last contract expired. He stated the City could not man a service for \$200,000.00 plus equipment. He moved the City enter into a contract for Central Dispatch with the County for \$200,000.00 per year for each of the next five years beginning on November 1, 2018 and running through November 30, 2023. Commissioner Weirauch stated the Council had balked at \$187,000.00 and now were going to consider \$200,000.00.

Commissioner Montfort wanted to know how much it would cost the taxpayers if the City did it on its own. Commissioner Harper stated it could not be done for under \$205,000.00 with four people noting the current dispatchers are making \$18.00 an hour, plus there would be training and benefits and he was using a rate of \$15.00 an hour. He continued that the software packages and server would be \$45,000.00 a year, even though some of the current computers might work, there would still a purchase of docking stations for each vehicle and, depending on where it was set up, the equipment would be \$50,000.00 but there might be an additional \$50,000.00 just to get an antenna.

Commissioner Weirauch stated that \$200,000.00 was more than the original request of \$187,000.00.

Commissioner Harper stated that was correct but the original request went back two years and with the increases the original request would be up to \$202,000.00 now. He restated that he had been asked to look at it as a CPA and that's what he had done. Mayor McPeek stated the County might not take it. Commissioner Weirauch stated he would vote against it and was very vocal about the City being the only one paying. From the audience Judy Cape asked when the amount was \$187,000.00 and was told the first year proposal was that amount.

From the audience an unidentified person asked why it would be a five year contract because he felt that would tie the hands of the next Council and he thought the numbers were inaccurate because he thought it could be done for a whole lot less.

Commissioner Montfort stated she and Chief Gunning had a meeting with Novacom which was looking into some numbers. She asked how many people did Central Dispatch service. Chief Gunning stated there were 20 entities that were involved. Commissioner Montfort asked how much anyone else pays. Chief Gunning stated that he was aware that Gallatin County pays in but they also contract with Eldorado. Commissioner Montfort asked about other counties and Chief Gunning stated they dispatch for Pope County but he was not aware of any monetary contribution by them. Commissioner Montfort stated she understood that there were certain calls from Kentucky. Chief Gunning stated that when certain calls hit a certain tower, they bounce to Harrisburg. Mayor McPeek suggested tabling the issue. All agreed.

Commissioner Harper asked to answer the question from the unidentified person in the audience regarding a five year contract. He responded that it was intentionally five years because most likely the next time it came up, none of the people on either board would still be on, so the hostility that had come out of these discussions would not be present plus he did not think a five year contract was unreasonable.

Chief Gunning stated he had done some investigation on the mobile home the Park District had moved without a permit. He stated that now, when a mobile home is sold, the title can be surrendered to the State and it then becomes part of the real estate. He and Attorney Bittle had reviewed the City's mobile home ordinance and according to Chapter 4-101-J a Special Use Permit could be issued. It was determined there would still be a \$500.00 permit fee and Superintendent Rick Brown stated he wanted to inspect the street, gutter and sidewalks to make sure there was no damage.

Mayor McPeek stated the asbestos report and cost estimate for the old junior high was in the packet for review to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mayor McPeek opened a bid in the amount of \$555.55 from Richard Nelson for the lot south of 1004 Wilmoth. Commissioner Weirauch moved to accept the bid. Commissioner Montfort seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor McPeek opened a bid in the amount of \$1,051.00 from Richard and Debra Rumsey for 1301 Cypress. Commissioner Weirauch moved to accept the bid. Commissioner Montfort seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor McPeek opened a bid in the amount of \$5,510.00 from Steve Quertermous for 919 South Granger, a bid in the amount of \$5,300.00 from Larry Angelly for 919 South Granger, a bid in the amount of \$7,500.00 from Dean Bittle for 919 South Granger and a bid in the amount of \$6,500.00 from Unit 3 Schools for 919

South Granger. Commissioner Weirauch moved to accept the bid in the amount of \$7,500.00 from Dean Bittle for 919 South Granger. Commissioner Harper seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Brown of Brown & Roberts distributed maps to address the drainage problem on South McKinley. He stated that Eric Boe from his firm and Superintendent Brown had been out investigating. He stated the drainage goes all the way to the east side of Taylor Field. He stated there were some sections they do not know about and Superintendent Brown was going to be doing some additional investigating for suspected inlets and also do some televising. He stated the system was in such bad shape in some areas that it cannot carry the flow and it was not a small problem to solve. Mayor McPeek stated it would be tabled until additional information was available.

Commissioner Miller moved to seek IDOT approval for closing Poplar Street from Mill to Main on October 27 for the Shawnee Marathon. Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve closing Locust Street on October 25 for the Chamber Scare on the Square. Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve hanging a banner October 26 through November 4 for the SIC Heritage Festival. Commissioner Montfort seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Montfort stated the Fire Department was still working on Fire Prevention Week.

Commissioner Montfort stated the Police Department was doing school walk throughs as they are able.

Commissioner Montfort reminded the public that Trick or Treat would be October 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Montfort gave the gaming numbers for September.

Commissioner Harper stated there was an update for the software for the Treasurer's office. He moved to authorize the Clerk to sign the no-cost agreement with Locis. Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Harper moved to approve use of the credit card to pay the HostGator annual fee of \$143.40. Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Weirauch stated the Early Retirement Incentive would be discussed at the next meeting.

Mayor McPeek reminded people to stop littering and keep grass clippings out of the street.

Mayor McPeek stated Cynthia Cummins would speak at later date.

Citizen Judy Cape asked to address Council as an independent, not as a member of the Police Pension Board. She asked Council to appoint another person to the Police Pension Board to replace Jonathan Gericke whose term expired by statute in May of 2018. Mayor McPeek stated he had someone in mind. Cape reminded him that her term expired in six months.

Cape stated she wanted to discuss a recent Pension Board hearing. She reminded Mayor McPeek that he had asked her to serve on the Board to address the final year payment given to Police Officers and whether or not it was pensionable. She informed the rest of Council that, under the Police contract, after a resignation is submitted that Officer gets an additional \$500.00 month for twelve months to be a Training Officer which is undefined and the question is whether or not that should be pensionable.

Cape had always assumed it was a contract language issue but she had acquired the Administrative Codes and believed the Codes support the City's opinion that it was not pensionable because of the Administrative Code, not because of the contract language. She distributed copies of the Administrative Code and asked Council to refer to the definition of Specialty Rank, which included training officer. She asked them to also refer to Temporary Pay definition which was compensation received for temporarily performing the duties of a higher rank or specialty rank, which would be a training officer. She continued with it was to be considered salary only if the temporary position has lasted for a continuous period of more than one year. She continued reading that after temporary pay has been received for one continuous year of service in that position, the amount is considered attached to rank and then becomes salary for purposes of pension computation. She stated that since the contract says they will be only paid for one year, it should not be pensionable.

She stated her comments on this issue were not going to be in the Pension Board's minutes because she was a minority on the Board and her comments were not wanted to be included because the minutes go up to the Department of Insurance. She asked Council to reconsider their position to not continue legal avenues to get it changed. She stated there are four Officers who are receiving the salary increase now and ten more who will qualify which amounts to \$500,000.00 out of the taxpayer's pocket which may or may not be legitimate. She stated the legislature was very clear they did not want the bump ups for the last year to be pensionable.

Cape continued that information disclosed in a hearing, which was an open meeting, was that a previous Officer went on line each week, printed out some information, posted it in the common room and considered that as training. She stated he was getting paid \$500.00 a month for doing two or three hours of work. She stated she had a problem giving someone \$6,000.00 a year and it being pensionable when it shouldn't be pensionable. She suggested an attorney look at the language. She stated she hoped the change to not advance the litigation was not about an election cycle. She stated since it was based on Administrative language, not contract language, there might be options such as advice for interpretation of the language as opposed to litigating it with the Pension Board to get a declaratory action on the language and how it should be interpreted. She stated the Pension Board, because of its makeup, will always side with the men but the City should look into it.

Commissioner Harper moved to adjourn to Executive Session discuss Property Acquisition. Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, Commissioners Montfort, Harper and Weirauch and Mayor McPeek voted yes. Commissioner Miller voted no. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 6:35 pm.

Reconvened: 7:01 pm.

Mayor John McPeek presided over the reconvened meeting with Commissioners Natalie Miller, Beth Montfort, Richard Harper and Mike Weirauch answering roll call.

Mayor McPeck stated there was no action to be taken on Property Acquisition

Commissioner Harper moved the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Weirauch seconded. By roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 7:02 pm